

Heirlooms.

By Donald Kennicott.

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"It was my father's sword."

As he spoke Knowlton replaced the bent brass scabbard on the elk horns over his fireplace and turned to the grave eyed young girl who stood beside him.

"You see, Miss Marble," he went on, trying to smile away the tinge of bitterness in his voice, "I have no other heritage to cherish."

Where I stood the girl's low voiced reply was inaudible, but a dull flush crept over the young Englishman's clear cut features, and it seemed that he echoed her words, saying a little sulkily, "No; I do not wear it."

The sound of footsteps on the veranda called him to welcome other guests, and I joined Nannie Marble in straying about the rooms, furnished oddly enough for a New Mexican ranch house, yet eloquently descriptive of their owner's life. The battered photograph with its heap of dusty records, the well worn cloth of the solitary table and the many shelves laden with innumerable paper novels spoke plainly of the lonely exile and his present existence. The hunting trophies on the walls, the old cut crystal service on the sideboard, above all the many pictures and photographs, among them his father as general of division and himself as lieutenant of the guards, told that once at least he had lived otherwise, had been something other than a far straying "reunitee man."

As we passed before the two portraits I knew that this thought was uppermost in Nannie Marble's mind, for ever since Knowlton's advent in the Blue Water country his love for her had been common knowledge. Yet she surprised me after a moment by saying very quietly, "Do you know why he is here?" and before I could reply answering herself: "He was cashiered for cowardice in the Boer war. Mrs. Loring told me. She showed me a paper that told about it."

There was a deep quiver of grief in her voice, and she turned away her head for the first time I was certain of what I had for some time suspected—that if she had repulsed him it had been against the dictates of her own heart. It was hard for me to see her in distress, for I had been her father's comrade and had known and loved her since the days when old John Marble's quartz ledge had started the short lived boom at Eldorado City and Nannie, in her little pink pinafore, had ridden about on our shoulders, the undisputed belle of the camp.

"Nannie," I said, "if something else were the reason; if—how could we be merely the appearance, could you forgive it?"

Her lip trembled, but she looked up at me bravely enough. "Yes," she said—"yes, if there were anything else in the world; if he had—oh, it is so hard to believe when one looks at him, and yet the paper told all about it and gave the official order that disgraced him."

I hesitated a moment, still uncertain as to whether it were best to let this girl know the truth about Francis Knowlton. And in that moment my opportunity was gone, for McNanon called from the other room, "Come on here; we're off," and we had to join the company assembled for an excursion to the ruins of Eldorado City. It was one of the many jaunts that had been arranged to entertain some visiting school friends of Nannie's and, like most of our entertainments, included the whole neighborhood, for we are too few and too isolated for social subdivisions. All were there—Breach of Promise McNanon, the Remittance Man, the Lady of the Absent Husband, the Lunker, the Man Who Invariably Went Armed, I who—But this is not autography.

With the gaiety of our young guests, the cool moonlight and the very good supper that Knowlton's Chinese boy had provided the time passed pleasantly enough, although to me, of course, the ruins of Eldorado City were a familiar and not altogether amusing story. Yet when a coyote appeared in the open doorway of the old Golden Light dance hall and a string of bats came flitting from the entrance of Denny Monahan's tunnel I will confess that the moonlit wreckage took on an uncanny appearance not altogether devoid of interest.

As a climax it had been planned to explore this tunnel, known as Denny Monahan's Lead, from the old Irishman, who had dug steadily into the mountain for three years, bringing out some gold, breaking in upon a seemingly limitless limestone cavern and eventually disappearing forever in this pit which he had dug. McNanon led the way in, unreluctant as he went the cord which was to guide our return, and with lighted candles the rest of us followed in line. Above us the bats

passed out in a continuous stream, and amid tiny shrieks of delight and trepidation from the ladies we proceeded to the limits of the tunnel and out into the natural cavern that had swallowed up the body and, so the delightful tradition ran, the treasure of Denny Monahan. The play of candlelight upon the glittering drops of moisture, the curious formations of onyx and limestone, the infinitely repeated echoes, all called forth their share of admiration, and, although the footing was becoming more difficult, we continued onward, the Lunker taking the lead in order to leave McNanon free to manage his cord.

Fatigue began to manifest itself in the cessation of talk and laughter, and when one of the ladies in the rear of the procession called out some belated jest of the Lunker the boy glanced back in surprise. The next instant he disappeared as if blotted out. I saw McNanon leap back, heard a dull splash, and then Knowlton brushed past me, tearing off his coat as he ran. He, too, plunged out of sight, and we heard sounds of a struggle in water and of some one gasping for breath. Holding my candle over the brink of the pit into which the Lunker had fallen, I could faintly discern the glimmer of water below me, but nothing more. The sound of splashing had ceased also, and for a long time we waited in breathless silence for some reassuring noise from below. Then from out the darkness to the left the even voice of the young Englishman started us.

"Come a bit this way with that candle, will you?"

A moment later he appeared, scrambling up the sloping rocks at the side, carrying the Lunker like a child in his arms. "I fancy he's knocked his head a bit on the stones down there," he remarked in a level conversational tone as he laid the dripping burden down. Then as Mrs. Loring bent over the unconscious boy he picked up his coat and stepped to one side.

Ten minutes later the Lunker was able to stand, and leaning on Loring's arm, to set out on the return journey. We found that the prolongation of our stay had nearly consumed our candles, and after a consultation the remaining bits were delivered over to the leader, and the rest walked in darkness. I was being detailed to close up the rear.

The windings of the passage left me for the most part in total obscurity, and I stumbled along, cursing myself that I had not told Nannie that truth concerning Knowlton which we men had long ago known—that it was his inheritance from a long line of porting ancestors that had brought him down, that after long monotonous months of garrison duty at an outlying post an urgent appeal for aid from an entrapped scouting party had come at the moment when the demon in his blood had at last got the better of him. A subordinate had led out a relief expedition, and Knowlton had come to live in the valley of the Blue Water. It was not a pretty story, yet a thousand times better than the one which had been told her. And, too, I could add to it that for the past year he had fought against his temptation with an unflinching courage that in my eyes at least had made him almost worthy of her. Yet I had feared that no woman could comprehend what that dull bloom of dust on the cut crystal decanter, an heirloom in the family, he had once remarked to me, with a queer smile, had cost him. I wondered if even now she would understand.

As we turned at last into the straight tunnel I caught sight of two silhouetted figures that walked side by side just in front of me, talking in low tones. And as we approached the entrance they delayed their steps, and there came to me the voice of Nannie Marble, speaking very gently:

"No, no, I do not wish to be told what the real reason was. I have seen. I am sure it was not what that paper said. There is nothing else in the world that I would not trust the man I love to conquer."

Very gravely the man answered her. "Anything in the world now."

And together they passed out into the starlight.

Largest Building Stone.

The walls of the Acropolis at Baalbek are truly called cyclopean. The famous Trilithon, the largest stones ever used in building, measure respectively sixty-six, sixty-four and sixty-three feet in length, each block weighing about 750 tons. How these huge masses were accurately placed in position twenty feet above the ground is a problem which modern science, with all its appliances, leaves yet unsolved. Above them are Arab fortifications. The quarries whence these gigantic materials were obtained are among the most interesting features of Baalbek. Here may still be seen the method of work of the ancient quarrymen, stones vertically hewn lying almost ready to the hand of the builder. One of these stones, to which the Arabs give the name Hajjar-el-Houbla, measures sixty-nine feet in length and weighs 915 tons. M. de Sauley calculates it would take the united efforts of 40,000 men to put this huge block in motion. This quarry is now used as a necropolis by the inhabitants of Baalbek—Sunday at Home.

"Fox Hunting" in 1700.

Two or three hundred years ago any one who said he had been "fox hunting" would have laid himself open to a misconception of which there is no longer danger in a modern November. According to the "Dictionary of the Canting Crew" (about 1700), "he has caught a fox" meant "he is very drunk," and this is what a writer meant in 1590 when he observed that "whoever loves good wine hunts the fox once a year." "Foxed" signified drunk, and to "fox" a man was to make him so. Pepys records that he "almost foxed" Dr. Thomas Pepys with Margate ale. Was the original idea that of playing a foxy trick on a man? Or, as one passage half suggests, that of painting his nose a foxy red?—London Chronicle.

Alcohol Stains on Furniture.

White stains on polished wood furniture caused by alcohol may be removed by rubbing the spot with camphorated oil. A hot iron held a few inches above the wood will restore the color. The oil is safer.

BOXWELL EXAMINATION

Following are the questions submitted at the examination Saturday, April 20, for school pupils under the Boxwell law: UNITED STATES HISTORY.

1. Give the origin of the name Pennsylvania. What led Oglethorpe to found a colony in Georgia?
2. Why did George III. propose to tax the colonies?
3. Name two services that Benjamin Franklin performed for his country.
4. When was the constitution adopted? Name three prominent members of the constitutional convention.
5. Give two important results of Burgoyne's surrender.
6. Name two accessions to the territory of the United States between 1840 and 1860.
7. How was the question of slavery in Missouri settled?
8. Describe one important battle of the Civil War, giving the year of the war in which it occurred, its locality and result.
9. What were the Alabama Claims and how were they settled?
10. Mention two important historical events of the year 1906.

PHYSIOLOGY.

1. What are the organs of breathing?
2. Describe the structure of the muscles.
3. Why should all food be thoroughly masticated?
4. Explain how the intestines are concerned in digestion.
5. Trace fully the blood from the aorta to the vena cava.
6. Name the bones of the head.
7. What is the function of the lymphatic circulation?
8. What effect has alcohol upon muscular control?
9. How would you remove a cinder from your eye?
10. What can you say of the healthfulness of milk and ice water as beverages?

READING.

Examiners will conduct an oral examination in reading.

GEOGRAPHY.

1. What resemblance exists between a canal and a strait? Give two examples of each.
2. Describe the climate and rainfall of the states on the Pacific Slope.
3. Locate five cities in Ohio of more than 20,000 inhabitants each, and name one important industry carried on in each.
4. Explain why the days and nights are not always of equal length. At what times of the year are they of equal length?
5. Name ten countries of South America and the capital of each.
6. Give the shortest route of a vessel sailing from New Orleans to Hamburg.
7. Tell what you can of the location and climate of Panama. Why is Panama of interest to all Americans at the present time?
8. To what river system does the Ohio river belong? How far is the Ohio river navigable?
9. Name two Asiatic and one African colony of Great Britain.
10. What and where is each of the following: Hong-Kong, Vesuvius, Puget, Niger, Kingston.

GRAMMAR.

1. What is a phrase? How are phrases classified with respect to use?
2. When is a verb copulative? Redundant? Emphatic? Irregular?
3. Write sentences containing the possessive plural of each of the following: wolf, alto, country, I, you.
4. Give a synopsis of the verb "to sink" in the indicative mode, active voice, first person, singular number; in the infinitive mode.
5. In the following, what part of speech is each of the italicized words? *Not* one of us can tell *what the future has in store* for him?
6. Write sentences using "that" as an adjective, a pronoun and a conjunction; "there" as an adverb of place and an expletive.
7. What kind of a sentence is the following? Classify its clauses. "Do not waste your time by wishing and *dreaming*, but work *earnestly* at whatever you can find to do."
8. Give the syntax of *to do* and *whatever* in the sentence in the previous question. Parse the italicized words in that sentence.
- 9-10. Write a short letter to the editor of your favorite magazine or paper, telling him why you like the same.

ARITHMETIC.

1. Find the value of $\frac{3}{4}$ of $\frac{5}{8}$ of 37.
$$\begin{array}{r} 37 \\ \times \frac{3}{4} \\ \hline 111 \\ 295 \\ \hline 2775 \end{array}$$
2. A rug 6 yards long and 5 yards wide is placed in the center of a room 7½ yards long by 6 yards wide. What will be the cost of painting the uncovered floor space at 4½ cents a square foot.
3. If you invest \$3360 in railway stock at 84, how many shares will you buy, and what will be your income if the stock pays 4%?
4. How can you find the area of a circle when its circumference is given?
5. On an average, 5000 copies of a daily paper are sold per day. Reckoning three sheets for each copy, how many reams of paper would be required for use in the present month, not including the Sunday edition?
6. A rope 80 feet long reaches from the base of one building to the top of another building, 30 feet high, on the opposite side of the street. How wide is the street?
7. What is a ratio? A proportion? Make (but do not solve) a problem in simple proportion.
8. Find the cost of 10 planks, each 15 feet long, 16 inches wide and 3½ inches thick, at \$2.25 per hundred.
9. What sum of money will produce \$1830 in 2 years, 6 months at 5%?
10. A steamer arrives at London, 0° 0' longitude, at 3:30 p. m. The fact is telegraphed without loss of time to Halifax, 63° 35' west. What time is it when the message is received?

WRITING.

For this branch examiners will grade the manuscript in orthography.

ORTHOGRAPHY.

1. Write words containing five of the following: a, oo, n, g, y, o.
(10 credits.)
2. Write sentences containing the correct use of the following words: indict, surplus, chasm, tedious, arid.
(10 credits.)
3. Write a rule for the use of the hyphen. Which of the following would you write with a hyphen: today, mantelpiece, daughter in law, schoolmate, selfmade?
(10 credits.)
4. Define and illustrate prefix, derivative word and dissyllable.
(10 credits.)
5. Spell correctly each of the following words to be pronounced by the examiner: pencil, shily, canteen, demolish; follicle, reprisal, traitor, abyss, acid; rarity, concrete, odorous, morgue, pallid; sentinel, maritime, Chesapeake; treachery, domineer, chronicle.
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